

## What is abuse?

If you have been harmed emotionally, physically, sexually, with threats, insults, physical violence, or in other ways, you should consider speaking with a counselor about domestic violence and abuse.



If you don't think you qualify for VAWA, but have suffered other forms of violence such as:

- Have been forced into prostitution or to have sex against your will.
- Were brought to this country against your will.
- Were forced to work under inhumane conditions or without pay.

Call us:

We may be able to assist you.

You have the right to obtain legal counseling regardless of your immigration status.



## Other services provided by YMCA International Services include:

- General Immigration Consultations
- Special Services to Victims of Crime
  - Family Based Petitions
  - Political Asylum
  - Citizenship

*YMCA International Services*

Consultations on  
Wednesdays  
between  
9 A.M.- 4 P.M



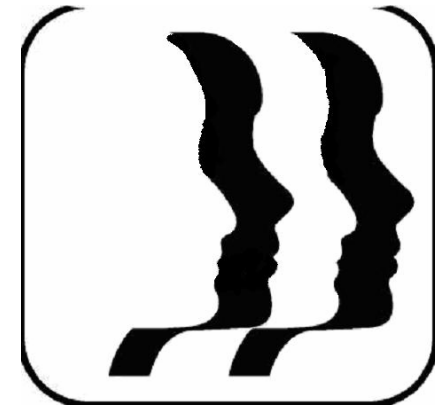
YMCA of Greater Houston

We build strong **kids**, strong **families**, strong **communities**

This program is funded by the Family Violence Program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

## IMMIGRATION RELIEF

For Survivors of  
Domestic Violence



What can the  
Violence Against Women  
Act do for you?

Questions and Answers from the  
Immigrant Victim Services  
Program at  
YMCA International  
Services.

## What is the Violence Against Women Act?

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) creates an opportunity for immigrants who are in abusive relationships with United States Citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents to establish legal immigration status independent of their abusers.

### How do I qualify?

To qualify for VAWA, you must meet the following requirements:

1. Be married to, be recently divorced from or be the child of a United States Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident.
2. Must have entered the marriage in good faith.
3. Be a person of good moral character.
4. Are being or have been subjected to abuse, battery or extreme cruelty by your United States Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident spouse/parent.

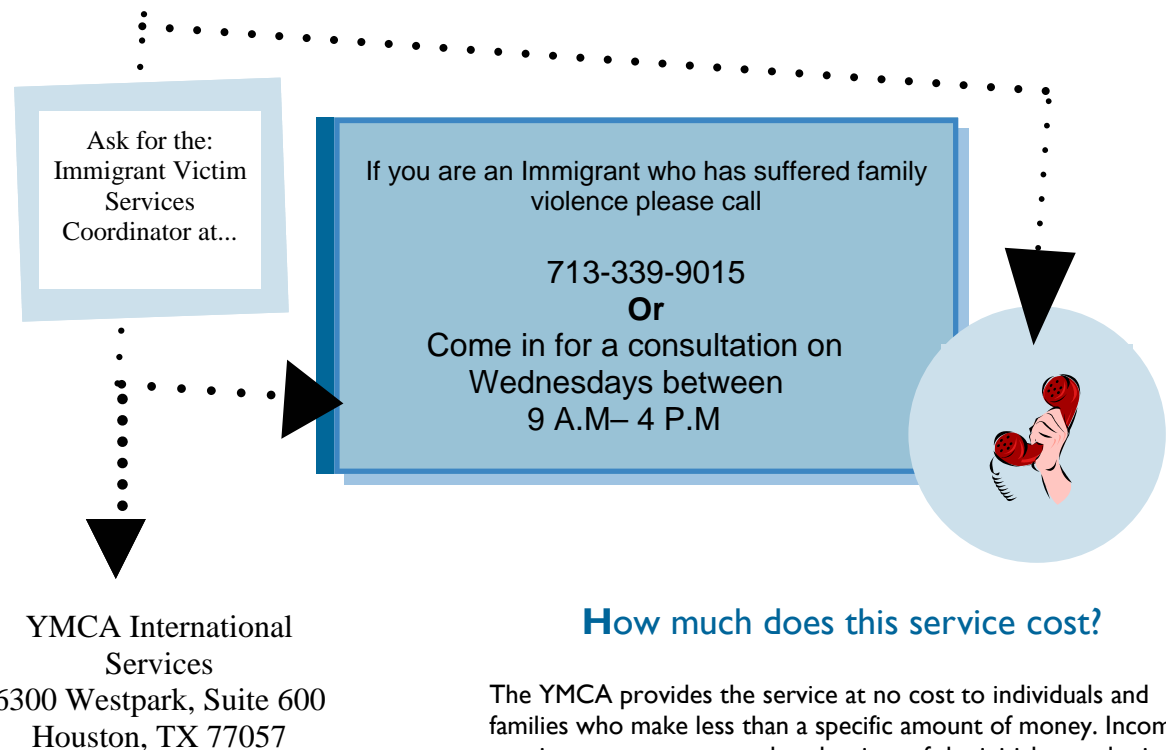
### Can only women apply for VAWA?

No. Men, women and children can apply for VAWA if they meet the application requirements.

## What are the benefits in applying for VAWA?

If you are in an abusive relationship, it can be a dangerous situation for you. VAWA may provide you the opportunity to legalize your status in the U.S.A. without your abusive parent/spouse.

A VAWA approval may allow you to apply for employment authorization while you are waiting for your residency application to be processed. Additionally, it may allow you to apply for citizenship after three years of Lawful Permanent Residency (green card).



### How much does this service cost?

The YMCA provides the service at no cost to individuals and families who make less than a specific amount of money. Income requirements are assessed at the time of the initial consultation.